

Site 300's autumnal splendor

Although the hills appear to be covered in a monoculture of brown grass at this time of year, if you take a closer look, you will find several California native forbs blooming and thriving in late summer and early fall. These species are amazing in their beauty and their ability to survive and even flower during the hottest, driest part of the year.

Several of these late season flowering plants are in the sunflower,



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mint and buckwheat families and have adaptations that allow them to survive our hot dry summers such as extensive root systems that are able to use what

little moisture is available in the soil. These plants limit the amount of water lost through their leaves by having small leaves (tarweed and spikeweed) or leaves that are very waxy (gum plant) or hairy (vinegar weed and buckwheats). Many buckwheats also have leaves that are rolled in at the edges to limit water loss. Look for these hardy beauties at Site 300 and in our nearby hills.



1) Wright's buckwheat (*Eriogonum wrightii*), BUCKWHEAT FAMILY; 2) angle-stemmed wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum angulosum*), BUCKWHEAT FAMILY; 3) vinegar weed (*Trichostema lanceolatum*), MINT FAMILY; 4) spikeweed (*Hemizonia pungens*), SUNFLOWER FAMILY; 5) California matchweed (*Cutierrezia californica*), SUNFLOWER FAMILY; 6) big tarplant (*Blepharizonia plumosa*), SUNFLOWER FAMILY; 7) gum plant (*Grindelia camporum*), SUNFLOWER FAMILY; 8) tar weed (*Holocarpha obconica*), SUNFLOWER FAMILY